

D.C. leaders fight repeal of gun laws

WASHINGTON (AP) - Leaders from the District of Columbia's political, religious and civic communities joined forces Monday to fight an effort in Congress to repeal the city's gun laws.

"Irresponsible extremists in Congress are trying to make the nation's capital a free fire zone," said Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C.

Norton, who can vote in congressional committees but does not have a vote in the full House, described the repeal effort as a politically motivated

assault on home rule and public safety.

"If the United States Capitol can be handgun-free, why can't we?" Hannah Hawkins said.

Hawkins, who runs a family support program in one of the city's poorest neighborhoods, noted that taxicabs are checked for weapons before they were allowed to approach the congressional office complex.

"The last thing we need is reinforcing those old perceptions that this is a crime area," said Robert A. Peck, presi-

dent of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, warning the legislation could hurt the region's economy.

The D.C. Personal Protection Act would rescind existing prohibitions covering handguns and semiautomatic and automatic weapons.

"The bill will restore the rights of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves and to defend their families against murderous predators," said a spokeswoman for Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

"It is time to tell the citi-

zens of the District of Columbia that the Second Amendment of the Constitution applies to them."

While the city's homicide rate has declined by 55 percent over the past decade, killings among young people have escalated in recent months. "Easier access to deadly weapons is not the answer to lowering the rate of violent juvenile death," said Lori M. Kaplan, executive director of the Latin American Youth Center in the Columbia Heights section of the city.

BIM

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be family at GEA, so we get together all times of the day and night and brainstorm and ask ourselves 'what if we did this or that?'" Goss said. "Then we agree to keep the idea and put it on the shelf to work on or we get rid of it. We are in constant communication with each other. It's completely normal for one of us to call the other in the middle of the night to say, 'I was just thinking what if?'"

Founded in 2000, GEA & Associates was the dream of Goss and Estrada. A third founder has since left the company. Their services include marketing, event management, Web site development and Internet service provider.

Their goal is to promote business growth and profitability through alternative marketing strategies based on the vision of the client by helping the client connect with the information and services they need to prosper. GEA partners with clients to turn their dreams into reality, creating the best win-win solution.

Such things seem complex, but the partners don't view it that way.

Goss sees herself as an ordinary person doing ex-

traordinary things. She's much too humble to see herself as an extraordinary person. Goss, who is half-Mexican and half-Black, was raised on the South Side of Chicago by Black adoptive parents since she was six months old.

"The day my mom saw me she was actually coming to adopt another child but mom held me in her arms that day and has never let me down since," Goss recalled. "My mom says I've been selling all my life."

As a youngster, tests showed Goss to be intellectually gifted. The child-genius started her first business at the age of 10. She credits her dad for her high business ethics and standards.

"My dad always told me 'Whatever job you have, learn to do everyone else's job too,'" he said. "Companies downsize, but the person who knows how to do more than just their own job is more valuable to the company and less likely to be effected when an employer has to make changes in employee staffing."

Goss discovered a natural ability for programming computers prior to enlisting in the U.S. Navy. Four years later, she was recruited into an in-



Photo special to Sentinel-Voice
The brains behind the journalistic insight: Melissa Estrada (right) is a partner in GEA & Associates. Tamara Butler serves as editor of the all-digital Black Insight Magazine.

tense computer programming school where she became certified in five programming languages. Since then she has added 10 additional languages to her "executive summary," which focus on business, graphic and Internet design.

Following an honorable discharge from the Navy, Goss became a 50 percent partner in a very successful mass-mail production company in Chicago. Then in 1995 she decided to move to Las Vegas to be closer to her aging parents.

"I came here with a tiny

nest egg and literally started over," she said.

Secure in herself and abilities, Goss didn't balk at any work which fit into her plan. She worked delivering Pizzas, sold vacuum cleaners and worked as a sales manager for Port-a-Medic in exchange for flexible hours which allowed her to plan and save money for her next venture. That was in 1999, when Goss started YOONITE, a dial-up service and Web site design company.

In 2000 adjustments were made, the company expanded

Judge seeks test over staged crime

POMONA, Calif. (AP) - A college professor convicted of staging a hate crime by spray-painting her own car with racist slurs was ordered to undergo 90 days of psychological testing at a state prison.

Pomona Superior Court Judge Charles Horan on Friday delayed Kerri Dunn's sentencing, but called her a "bald-faced liar."

"It's clear in this case what occurred," Horan told Dunn and her attorneys Friday.

"Your client vandalized her own car and reported it as a hate crime."

Dunn, 39, of Redlands, was convicted of a misdemeanor count of filing a false police report and two felony counts of attempted insurance fraud.

She could face up to 3-1/2 years in prison when she returns for sentencing on Dec. 15.

The Claremont McKenna College psychology professor reported the racist and anti-Semitic slurs on her car on March 9, prompting college officials to cancel classes the next day as thousands of students took part in demonstrations calling for tolerance.

Dunn became a suspect after two witnesses reported seeing her vandalizing her car.

Both Dunn's attorneys and prosecutors welcomed the judge's decision to seek a psychological evaluation.

"This may help us determine if this is some fluke that is never going to be repeated or if it is something that needs to be handled in a more serious fashion," Deputy District Attorney Martin Bean said.

and became GEA & Associates.

Following Estrada's successful chemotherapy, Goss decided that it was time to take BIM off the "what if?" shelf.

BIM became reality via special delivery on Aug. 27 at 12:01 a.m., receiving 40,000 hits on its birthday. By the end of the third week, BIM had received 92,000 hits from 24 countries.

"We want to show the world that the Internet will give you a chance to reach the world on whatever level you are shooting for," said Goss.

In January 2005, BIM will launch their on-line talk show, which will be hosted by Amy Joe Greer. Special celebrity guest interviews will be available for subscri-

ers to view in their entirety.

"Amy Joe, a local talk show host on KCEP 88.1 FM, has agreed to be the voice and face of BIM," said Goss.

BIM Executive VP of Marketing, W.T. Greer Jr. and his wife Amy Joe own a small percentage of BIM; together the couple brings a plethora of business knowledge to the family.

In the future, BIM will produce other versions of the magazine.

"We don't think 'outside the box,'" Goss said. "To us, there is no box."

Subscription rates for BIM are \$19.99 per year. However, you can receive a free copy of BIM by logging onto www.readbim.com and type in the discount code **voice**.

For more information call (702) 631-3435.

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